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For the 3,000 people on the farm there were only four subscriptions to Pravda and two subscriptions to Lavaativa, although a greater number of local papers in Russian and Ukrainian were received. Apparently, most of the people did not read. Magazine circulation was very restricted in rural areas, and was limited to journals dealing with agricultural matters. There were no wired radio receivers. All ten radio receivers on the farm were short-wave sets. Three of these were in the hands of Communist Party members, and although the cheapest radio receiver costs about 400 rubles, the remaining seven sets were in the possession of peasants. The news they received was passed along by word of mouth and did gain fairly wide circulation. Since most of the people spoke little Russian, the few broadcasts in Ukrainian by the VOA were well received. The wall newspaper which was so important during World War II has fallen into disuse, except for personalities and gossip. Administrative personnel are too overburdened to give much time to it. Verbal communication of official announcements and delivery of political lectures commonly precedes some type of public distribution of seeds, etc.

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There are plenty of newspapers, including unit and Army newspapers and Krasnaya Zvezda. They are available in clubs and libraries. There are few magazines, and not even officers can subscribe to such slick paper magazines as Koznyok or Znamya.

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Once a book by Nestenin was sold on the black market at a mark-up of 20 rubles after the Soviet authorities had withdrawn its legal circulation. This could have been a profit-making device, as it was a Soviet book. [redacted] claims by Ukrainian nationalist movements and the fascistic NTS movement that they are circulating leaflets in the USSR. Every leaflet that did get any circulation would be read by at least ten people.

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A. This is a ticklish question. On the one hand, 80% of the people feel now that the regime is hostile to their interests. They do what they have to do in order to survive and no more. Controls keep them going. If they do not meet their norms, they do not eat enough. On the other hand, widespread discontent is reflected in many ways, with serious consequences to the state. Inspectors are bribed to pass defective products. Bolts are skipped and bad parts are used in order to earn higher piecework wages. Let me illustrate the results. [redacted]

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[redacted] Products are stolen at night from storerooms after they have been accepted during the day. Next day the same products are turned in and accepted over again. People hide some of the crops in holes and ditches and return at night to collect them privately. Although the Government makes good propaganda out of slight, progressive increases in cash wages and downward shading of prices, the populace is disillusioned and does not expect the situation to get much better. The standard of living is still far below prewar standards. Controls are stricter. The wartime freeze of the worker on his job has never lifted. Remuneration is lower in real terms. A kolkhoznik received 5-6 kilograms of grain for a days work in 1936-37. Today he receives only 1-1 1/2 kilograms. Prices are still high after the 1949 revaluation of the ruble. Widespread popular discontent makes its influence felt in many ways. It is a potent force.

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[redacted] The West should beam its broadcasts to the Ukraine lower. It should talk in Ukrainian to the few peasants who do have short-wave radio sets.

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